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**TIM RYAN**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO

August 5, 2019

**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

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The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell:

I write to you in the wake of what has unfortunately become an all too common occurrence—another mass shooting in America. The heinous acts of domestic terrorism in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, have shocked these communities and the world. While we grieve as a nation for those who lost their lives, the American people have already begun to ask their leaders to “do something.” They are demanding more than thoughts and prayers; they want us to act. That is why I strongly urge you to call the U.S. Senate back from summer recess to address the epidemic of gun violence.

As you are well-aware, we are not completely powerless to prevent future tragedies. We can pass universal background checks. We can adopt “red flag” laws. We can ban military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines like the ones used in the attack in my home state. Earlier this year, I joined my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives in passing two bipartisan pieces of legislation—H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112—that would make meaningful changes to the way guns are bought and sold. And yet, you have refused to even *consider* these bills—shirking your constitutional duty to protect the American people.

We live in a time when no place—not houses of worship, schools, workplaces, movie theaters, bars, or shopping centers—is safe from mass murder. New Zealand banned assault weapons after a single mass shooting. How many more lives need to be taken before you feel compelled to act? Enough is enough. It is time for you to return to Washington to take up the gun safety legislation we passed in the House. You owe it to nine people in Dayton and 22 in El Paso to ensure this never happens again.

The nation is watching. Will you finally lead?

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

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